

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims by canceling claims 50, 53, 55, 67, 70, 79 and 81, amending claims 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 62, 68, 69, 71, 72, 73, 80 and 82, and add new claims 83 and 84, all without prejudice, as indicated on the following listing of all the claims in the present application after this Response:

1. – 49. (Cancelled)

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) The A method of claim 50 storing user data on and retrieving user data from a non-volatile memory card, comprising:
encoding the user data,
storing both the encoded user data and information useful to decode the encoded user data on the memory card,
thereafter reading both the encoded user data and the decoding information from the memory card, and
decoding the read encoded user data by use of the decoding information read from the memory card, thereby to obtain the user data,
wherein encoding the user data includes compressing the user data, and the decoding information stored on the memory card includes a decompression algorithm.

52. (Currently Amended) The A method of claim 50 storing user data on and retrieving user data from a non-volatile memory card, comprising:
encoding the user data,
storing both the encoded user data and information useful to decode the encoded user data on the memory card,
thereafter reading both the encoded user data and the decoding information from the memory card, and

decoding the read encoded user data by use of the decoding information read from the memory card, thereby to obtain the user data,

wherein encoding the user data includes encrypting the user data, and the decoding information stored on the memory card includes a decryption algorithm.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently Amended) The A method of claim 50 storing user data on and retrieving user data from a non-volatile memory card, comprising:

encoding the user data,

storing both the encoded user data and information useful to decode the encoded user data on the memory card,

thereafter reading both the encoded user data and the decoding information from the memory card, and

decoding the read encoded user data by use of the decoding information read from the memory card, thereby to obtain the user data,

wherein the decoding information includes an algorithm useful to decode the encoded user data.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (Currently Amended) The A method of claim 50 storing user data on and retrieving user data from a non-volatile memory card, comprising:

encoding the user data,

storing both the encoded user data and information useful to decode the encoded user data on the memory card,

thereafter reading both the encoded user data and the decoding information from the memory card, and

decoding the read encoded user data by use of the decoding information read from the memory card, thereby to obtain the user data,

wherein the decoding information includes a software or hardware driver useful to decode the encoded user data.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims 50 51, 52, 54 or 56, wherein the non-volatile memory card includes a flash EEPROM array, and both the encoded user data and the decoding information are stored in the flash EEPROM array.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein storing includes programming both the encoded user data and decoding information into individual memory cells of the flash EEPROM array in more than two states, thereby to store more than one bit of said user data and decoding information per cell.

59. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims 50 51, 52, 54 or 56, wherein the encoding and storing occur when the memory card is electrically connected to a first host system, and wherein the reading and decoding occur when the memory card is electrically connected to a second host system.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein either the encoding is accomplished by the first host system or the decoding is accomplished by the second host system.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein at least one of the encoding and decoding are accomplished in a memory controller function included in a mother electronic card that is removably connectable with at least one of the first and second host systems and into which the memory card is removably connectable.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims 50 51, 52, 54 or 56, wherein at least one of the encoding and decoding are accomplished in a memory controller function included in a mother electronic card to which the memory card is removably connectable.

63. (Previously Presented) A method of storing user data on and retrieving user data from a non-volatile memory card, comprising:

connecting the memory card to a first host system,

encoding the user data within the first host system,

storing the encoded user data and information useful to decode the user data on the memory card from the first host system,

removing the memory card from connection with the first host system,

connecting a mother card to a second host system, wherein the mother card includes a controller function for the memory card,

connecting the memory card to the mother card,

thereafter causing the mother card to read the encoded user data and the decoding information from the memory card, and

decoding the read encoded user data within the controller function of the mother card by use of the decoding information read from the memory card, thereby to provide the user data to the second host.

64. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 63, wherein the first host system includes a camera and the user data includes visual field data obtained by the camera.

65. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein the second host system includes a personal computer.

66. (Previously Presented) A method of storing user data on and retrieving user data from a non-volatile memory card, comprising:

connecting a mother card to a first host system, wherein the mother card includes a controller function for the memory card,

connecting the memory card to the mother card,

encoding user data provided by the first host system within the mother card controller function,

storing on the memory card the encoded user data and information useful to decode the user data,

removing the memory card from connection with the mother card,

thereafter connecting the memory card to a second host system without use of the mother card,

thereafter causing the second host system to read the encoded user data and the decoding information from the memory card, and

decoding the read encoded user data with the second host by use of the decoding information read from the memory card, thereby to obtain the user data.

67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) The A non-volatile memory card of claim 67, comprising:
a flash EEPROM array,

encoded user data stored in a first portion of the array, and

data of information useful to decode the encoded user data stored in a second portion of the array,

wherein the stored encoded user data includes compressed user data, and wherein the information useful to decode the stored encoded user data includes a decompression algorithm.

69. (Currently Amended) The A non-volatile memory card of claim 67, comprising:
a flash EEPROM array,

encoded user data stored in a first portion of the array, and

data of information useful to decode the encoded user data stored in a second portion of the array,

wherein the stored encoded user data includes encrypted user data, and wherein the information useful to decode the stored encoded user data includes a decryption algorithm.

70. (Cancelled)

71. (Currently Amended) A memory system card, comprising:

a connector adapted to be received by a host system,
a receptacle adapted to receive a memory card that includes non-volatile memory,
a controller for programming data into and reading data from the non-volatile memory in response to commands ~~from a host system received through the connector~~,
an encoder of data received ~~from a host system through the connector~~, thereby causing encoded data to be stored in the non-volatile memory, and
a decoder of encoded data read from the non-volatile memory, thereby causing decoded data to be ~~provided to a host system sent through the connector~~.

72. (Currently Amended) The memory system card of claim 71, wherein the encoder functions to compress the data received ~~from a host system through the connector~~, and the decoder functions to decompress the encoded data read from the non-volatile memory.

73. (Currently Amended) The memory system card of claim 71, wherein the encoder functions to encrypt the data received ~~from a host system through the connector~~, and the decoder functions to decrypt the encoded data read from the non-volatile memory.

74. (Previously Presented) The memory system card of claim 71, wherein the decoder operates with information of a decoding algorithm read from a memory card connected with the system card receptacle.

75. (Previously Presented) The memory system card of claim 71, wherein the decoder operates with a key read from a memory card connected with the system card receptacle.

76. (Previously Presented) The memory system card of claim 71, wherein the decoder operates to decode encoded data read from the non-volatile memory by use of information also stored in the non-volatile memory about the data encoding.

77. (Previously Presented) The memory system card of claim 76, wherein the information includes a data decoding algorithm.

78. (Previously Presented) The memory system card of claim 76, wherein the information includes a decoding key.

79. (Cancelled)

80. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ data storage system of claim 79, comprising:
a re-programmable non-volatile semiconductor memory,
first data encrypted and stored in the memory,
second data stored in the memory of information useful to decrypt the first data,
a controller operably connected with the memory to decrypt the first data by use of the
second data, and
a connector electrically connected with the controller in a manner to pass the decrypted
first data therethrough and adapted for removable connection with different host devices,
wherein the information useful to decrypt the first data includes a decryption algorithm.

81. (Cancelled)

82. (Currently Amended) The data storage system of claim 79 80, formed in first and second cards that are removably removably connectable with each other through mating connectors, wherein the memory having the first and second data stored therein is located on the first card, and wherein the controller and host connector are located on the second card.

83. (New) The method according to claim 63, wherein the information useful to decode the user data includes a decoding algorithm for recovering the user data stored on the memory card in an encoded form.

84. (New) The method according to claim 66, wherein the information useful to decode the user data includes a decoding algorithm for recovering the user data stored on the memory card in an encoded form.